

**Salt Marsh RAMP**  
**May 20, 2021 10a-12p**  
**2021 Debrief Program**

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## Introduction

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Caitlin Chafee welcomed the RAMP attendees and began the day with a debrief of RAMP activities. Each member of RAMP was asked to highlight a few projects they are working on this spring and summer. Members were also reminded to ask for help if needed or offer their assistance to other members.

The following is the program, in alphabetical order by last name.

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## Debrief Program

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Nia Bartolucci  
[barto22n@bu.edu](mailto:barto22n@bu.edu)  
Boston University

### Notes

Nia is a PhD student at the Fulweiler lab of BU. She is partnered with NBNERR (through a Mary Davidson Fellowship) to measure greenhouse gas fluxes from the TLP sites

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John Berg  
[JBERG@tnc.org](mailto:JBERG@tnc.org)  
TNC

### Notes

Focuses on land protection. Late he worked on restoration projects at Quick Sand Pond and Long Pond (Little Compton). He worked with local land owners to generate interest and restoration success. This year, he has been working to maintain to work they've done. Finally, he is noticing that interest seems to be shifting to water quality.

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Karlo Berger  
[karloberger@uri.edu](mailto:karloberger@uri.edu)  
URI

### Notes

Karlo is a student in the MESM program at URI and currently an intern with Wenley Ferguson at Save the Bay. He is interested in the organizational ecosystem of RAMP looking at the people

involved and their affiliations.

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Walter Berry  
[Berry.Walter@epa.gov](mailto:Berry.Walter@epa.gov)  
EPA

**Notes**

Walter is continuing his salt marsh sparrow work through monitoring and restoration activities.

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Mike Bradley  
[mike@edc.uri.edu](mailto:mike@edc.uri.edu)  
URI

**Notes**

Mike is working on three projects this summer. (1) deployed LiDAR to map Quonnie TLP site and now need to georeference the data; (2) collect low tide/low wind orthophotos for seagrass mapping (happening in early June); and (3) the Environmental Data Center at URI has a tool for salt marsh coastal planning to identify coastal conservation opportunities by linking SLAMM with private land to look at potential land acquisition sites.

**Comments**

Many participants wanted a separate webinar on the tool to show how EDC made decisions and developed the tool; would also like a demonstration of the tool.

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Erin Burman  
[burman.erin@epa.gov](mailto:burman.erin@epa.gov)  
EPA

**Notes**

Erin is looking at the social and economic impacts of marsh restoration. She is in the data collection phase. She will analyze parcels of properties in corridors so she can compare parcels that have marshes to ones that do not.

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Gary Casabona  
[gary.casabona@usda.gov](mailto:gary.casabona@usda.gov)  
NRCS

**Notes**

NRCS is involved in private land restoration with funding through the EQIP funds or through purchasing easements. Currently working with STB to conduct salt marsh sparrow work on Jacob's Point through restoring the salt marsh. Please keep NRCS in mind for projects, as they have funding to work directly with private land owners.

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Caitlin Chaffee  
[Caitlin.Chaffee@dem.ri.gov](mailto:Caitlin.Chaffee@dem.ri.gov)  
NBNERR

### Notes

Caitlin introduced RAMP and updated partners on the finalization of the RAMP framework and partnerships. Caitlin stated that NBNERR was taking a leading role in RAMP, building on previous work done by CRMC, Save The Bay, and others

### Comments

Caitlin was highlighted with 5 other women on salt marshes and climate change.

<https://www.ecori.org/shifting-sands/2021/3/19/six-prominent-women-guide-response-to-rhode-islands-coastal-changes>

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Giancarlo Cicchetti  
[Cicchetti.Giancarlo@epa.gov](mailto:Cicchetti.Giancarlo@epa.gov)  
EPA

### Notes

Working with Mass Bays to develop salt marsh restoration targets. To help with this effort, they are assessing marsh types (i.e. rip rap), using Narragansett Bay as a comparison area. Lastly, to look at historical extent, using maps from the 1700s showing marshes.

### Comments

Much interest in these maps, especially if the maps contact historical land use (such as agriculture); Kenny Raposa mentioned that NERR received funding to look at historic land use changes at NERRs, including Narragansett Bay

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Nick Ernst  
[nick\\_ernst@fws.gov](mailto:nick_ernst@fws.gov)  
USFWS

### Notes

Focusing on Hurricane Sandy resiliency projects in the Narrow River and Sachuest. The USFWS is dealing with TLP issues at Narrow River because the site became hypersaline. The site needs drainage and they are actively getting the restoration permits together

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Wenley Ferguson  
[wferguson@savebay.org](mailto:wferguson@savebay.org)  
Save The Bay

### Notes

Wenley shared three projects. (1) is the 3rd year of a hydrology maintenance project at Quonnie

Pond. They found that wind deposition of sand is impacting the creeks dug. (2) is a runnel project to address flow in a brackish system (Matunuck or Point Judith?). (3) is a runnel project at Ninigret and Potter's. Additionally, she is helping Buzzards Bay with SMARTeams (a regional effort from VA to ME) to pull tech experts and regional projects to discuss the best way to do these projects in different areas (such as runnels and ditching). This is a larger coordination effort to establish technical expertise for the region.

### Comments

Sue Adamowicz joined our previous RAMP meeting to discuss SMARTeams

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Amber Hardy  
[amber\\_k\\_hardy@uri.edu](mailto:amber_k_hardy@uri.edu)  
URI

### Notes

Amber is finishing up her dissertation. She offered her help on field work. Amber shared the projects of her dissertation. (1) She is monitoring TLP sites around RI, and found that using subaqueous soil survey data when selecting TLP sites may contribute to the success; (2) She studied overwash at 3 sites impacted by Hurricane Sandy storm surge, and analyzed the geomorphological properties that changed during recovery; (3) Finally she surveyed 42 sites for characteristics to determine if these characteristics influence migration, characterize the zones of migration, and develop a model based on the ecological site model to identify what people want out of the land and how to balance that with migration.

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Cathy Johnson  
[catherine\\_johnson@nps.gov](mailto:catherine_johnson@nps.gov)  
NPS

### Notes

Cathy coordinates efforts from ME to VA for NPS. She is trying to link SMARTeams with fishery experts to develop projects that encourage both ecosystem services. Additionally, she is keeping on top of restoration efforts.

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Tom Kutcher  
[tkutcher@rinhs.org](mailto:tkutcher@rinhs.org)  
RINHS

### Notes

Provided an update on the salt marsh prioritization method. Analyzing mature restoration sites (>10 years since restoration) for long-term outcomes and finds that inundation stress impeded recovery. He found that time since restoration and number of restoration activities that have happened on the site will improve success of restoration to natural condition.

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Joey Loffredo  
[loffredo@uri.edu](mailto:loffredo@uri.edu)  
EPA

**Notes**

Cathy Wigand gave a thorough overview of what I've been working on with her at the sediment placement sites, specifically the greenhouse experiment, looking at soil biogeochemical responses, and trying to grow marsh plants from seed. I have to work in some freshwater wetlands this summer for part of my Master's, but I will be assisting Cathy and Danielle occasionally in the field this summer to help with their monitoring

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Jon Mitchell  
[Jonathan.Mitchell@dem.ri.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Mitchell@dem.ri.gov)  
NBNERR

**Notes**

Jon introduced himself as the new stewardship coordinator for NBNERR.

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Suzanne Paton  
[suzanne\\_paton@fws.gov](mailto:suzanne_paton@fws.gov)  
USFWS

**Notes**

Has a new initiative on salt marsh sparrows (WEBSITE). She is sharing info with her networks to inform restoration. USFWS also keeps past webinars on website, which can be useful to folks looking for information. USFWS funds can be used to do pre/post restoration monitoring and wants people to be aware of a new funding cycle coming up.

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Danielle Perry  
[dperry@massaudubon.org](mailto:dperry@massaudubon.org)  
MassAudubon

**Notes**

Danielle acts as a liaison between RAMP and Massachusetts's Salt Marsh Working Group. Currently, this group is developing a research agenda based on subcommittee thoughts and recommendations. She promises to bring ideas to RAMP if they are applicable. She is also working on three projects for MassAudubon in Allen's Pond, Barnstable, and on the North Shore. These projects are focusing on ditch remediation and runneling.

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Kenny Raposa  
[kenneth.raposa@dem.ri.gov](mailto:kenneth.raposa@dem.ri.gov)  
NBNERR

## Notes

Kenny finished up the 3 year work on Thin Layer Deposition outcomes. During this, the team applied local quarry fill and then looked at adding bio/organic material to the layers and how the TLP is doing. He is also part of a new proposal to look at the functions and values of marshes using camera trapping to investigate at 12 marshes in RI. He is also doing annual monitoring at the sentinel sites and Tier 3 sites. Finally he is beginning to quantify migration rates at other sites.

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Scott Ruhren  
[sruhren@asri.org](mailto:sruhren@asri.org)  
RI Audubon

## Notes

His work with RI land owners shows him that Riers are concerned with sea level rise and migration. He is looking to partner with researchers to explore new tools, map properties, and monitor birds at these impacted sites.

Audubon is working on protecting coastal shrublands, an often-overlooked habitat that is key for Fall and Spring migrating birds as well as nesting birds. Also, Audubon, a partner in the pending Jacob's PT Phase II restoration work, will likely receive funding from NRCS's WRE program. It is interesting to now see Audubon's land involved in this restoration project because in Phase I, salt water was not reaching Audubon's marsh.

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Mary Schoell  
[mary@nerra.org](mailto:mary@nerra.org)  
NBNERR

## Notes

Mary is the NOAA Digital Coast Fellow at NBNERR. She is looking for assessments around mapping and support to protect migration pathways for salt marshes. She is in the second phase of the assessment and interviewing partners to gather additional information for use by scientists and managers. She will create products as identified and needed.

## Comments

Consensus that this is needed information that we need to know where the pathways are

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Jim Turenne  
[jim.turenne@ri.usda.gov](mailto:jim.turenne@ri.usda.gov)  
NRCS

## Notes

Jim is currently doing soils work involving our EQIP Oyster reefs, Coastal Blue Carbon study with URI, and mapping 100 Ac. Pond in Borrrington.

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Cathy Wigand  
[wigand.cathleen@epa.gov](mailto:wigand.cathleen@epa.gov)  
EPA

**Notes**

Discussed the restoration efforts at Quonnie and Ningret Ponds. This year will focus on greenhouse gases, and assess plots that were seeded last year.

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**Action Items**

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1. Courtney to share debrief program on website
2. Caitlin and Tom continue to formalize vision of the Salt Marsh RAMP for group approval
3. Schedule 2021 meetings – Fall meeting